A

LETTER

TO A LATE

NOBLE COMMANDER

OF THE

BRITISH FORCES

IN

GERMANY.

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A

LETTER

TO

L--- G---E S-----E.

My Lord,

I Shall make no Apology for addreſſing you in this public Manner. In a free Nation, every Man who fills a Poſt of Truſt and Importance, is accountable to his Fellow-citizens for the juſt Diſcharge of his Duty. Every one is deeply intereſted in his Behaviour; every one therefore has a Right to ſcrutinize his Conduct; every one has the Privilege of expoſtulating with him on the Merits of his Actions.

At the ſame time pardon me the Pride of aſſuring you that this Addreſs to you is dictated by my Concern for the Honour of my Country, and my Zeal for its Welfare; both which, from Circumſtances hitherto apparent, are thought to have been injured by your Miſconduct.

I am moved by no perſonal Animoſity, heated by no Party, inſtigated by no Faction. It is not to Lord ———, but to the *Britiſh* Commander that I urge my Remonſtrances. The officer, not the Man, is the Subject of my Animadverſions.

That the Luſtre of your high Rank is darkened by an inglorious Eclipſe, is to me rather Matter of

Concern than Triumph. I mourn likewiſe that the *Brilliance* of that ſhining Day, when the Confederates in the Cauſe of Liberty vanquiſhed the Forces of *France*, ſhould be thought to have received Diminution from *your* Inactivity, who ought to have given additional Splendor to Conqueſt.

THOUGH I mourn principally for the Public, I nevertheleſs feel for you in particular. I do not mean to add Inſult to Misfortune. I do not endeavour to raiſe a fatal Prejudice againſt you, and anticipate, public Judgment before you are *legally* convicted of public Offence.

I AM ſenſible of the Danger of inflaming the Multitude under a free Government. When a popular Tumult has been induſtriouſly raiſed, I know that Juſtice has been too often ſacrificed to appeaſe it.

No one can be ignorant of the cruel Means which were uſed to inflame the Public, againſt a late unhappy Delinquent and chief Commander at Sea. Before he had ſet his Foot on Shore, Papers and Pamphlets pronounced his Condemnation; he was borne along the Streets by the Mob as a Spectacle of Infamy, and hung in Effigy.

DURING his Tryal, every Article of Examination daily underwent the ſevereſt Comment. The Charges againſt him fell under the Heads of *Cowardice*, *Negligence* or *Diſaffection*. His Judges unanimouſly acquitted him of the *firſt* and *laſt*. He died—for his NEGLIGENCE.

IF Juſtice obliged them to condemn him, yet his *Negligence* was not thought ſo capital as to exclude him from *Mercy*. His Judges unanimouſly and warmly recommended him as a fit Object of Royal Clemency. The Clamour which this Recommendation occaſioned is recent in every one's Ears. The Demands of Juſtice were loud from every Quarter: The Walls

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in every Street were defaced with Scrolls, which called for Vengeance: Majeſty itſelf was menaced; and popular Rage dared to interfere with the Exerciſe of the moſt noble Prerogative of the Crown.

I DO not mean however to inſinuate, that public Clamour influenced the Royal Determination. Our Sovereign has not only the Diſpoſition, but the Fortitude to be juſt. Had it been a Time for Clemency, the Delinquent had not fallen a Victim to the Rigour of his Sentence.

THE Occaſion called for Severity. The Offence was proved: The Law declared the puniſhment: The Nation demanded Execution; and the Sovereign approved of it. Juſtice had its free Courſe, and eſtabliſhed an Example, to the Terror of future Offenders.

YOU, my Lord, are ſuppoſed to have been zealous in promoting this Example. Prompted, no doubt, by the Principle which actuates every generous Mind, you paid no Regard to the Wealth of the Delinquent, to his noble Alliances, or high Rank in the Navy. You conſidered an Individual, however great, to be of little Importance, when placed in Competition with the Public. Theſe Conſiderations, it is preſumed, influenced you to urge his Doom. You had the Nation on your Side. You had more: You had Juſtice to ſupport your Conduct.

No one can condemn the Zeal, which inſpires us with Reſentment againſt Delinquents who betray the Honour, and abandon the Intereſt of their Country. The Principle is noble, but we certainly ought to be careful in what Manner we direct it. Our Indignation ſhould not tranſport us ſo far as to take Facts for granted, before they are proved in a Courſe of legal Examination.

THIS Caution I mean to obſerve in examining the Circumſtances of your ſuppoſed Criminality. I would

would not hire a Mob to bear you aloft as an Object of Hatred and Deriſion; I would not bribe them to hang you in Effigy; neither ſhall my Pen proclaim you either *cowardly*, *negligent*, or *diſaffected*, before you have been heard in your own Vindication.

It is my Intention to conſider the nature and Conſequences of the Delinquency of which you are ſuſpected, and of which you ſtand *negatively* accuſed, even by the public Orders which your Superior iſſued for returning Thanks to his Forces the Day after the Battle.

At the ſame time I ſhall not omit to examine the Validity of thoſe Excuſes, which have been offered in your Juſtification by your Friends at Home. Friends, who, perhaps, may do you more Prejudice by the Weakneſs of their Palliatives, than your Enemies can by the Violence of their Accuſations.

From a candid Enquiry of this Nature, you will become acquainted with the public Sentiments with reſpect to your Conduct; and you will be better prepared to invalidate the Charges of which you are more than ſuſpected.

As your high Rank and Condition in Life affords you an Opportunity of Information, you cannot be ignorant of the Neceſſity and Juſtice of the War in which *Great-Britain* is at preſent engaged. A War founded on Self-defence, and undertaken to repel Encroachments.

You cannot be ignorant either of the Expedience or Obligation of ſupporting thoſe few Allies, with whom we are connected by Treaty, or Intereſt. With reſpect to our Alliance with *Pruſſia* in particular, you muſt be ſenſible, that however Ignorance and Malice may exclaim againſt it, it is nevertheleſs cemented by the ſtrongeſt and moſt laſting of all Ties — that of mutual Intereſt.

By

By means of that Connection, we divide the Force of our Enemies. We not only render them incapable of acting offenſively againſt us, but leſs able to protect their Colonies, and ſecure their own Coaſts from thoſe Invaſions which we have made with ſo much Glory and Succeſs.

They have neither a Fund of Money, or a Supply of Men ſufficient to ſerve ſuch different and extenſive Purpoſes. They are confined in their Plans, and languid in their Operations: While we by a Prudent and vigirous Exertion of our Naval Power, have been able to extend our Conqueſts to the ſeveral Quarters of the Globe, at the ſame time that we provide for our Security at Home, and find Means to detach a conſiderable Force for the Service of our Allies on the Continent.

Whether it be adviſeable or not to ſend the Forces of *Great-Britain* to fight in *Germany*, is a ſubject which has been much controverted, and is quite foreign from my Diſcuſſion. It is ſufficient for the preſent Purpoſe, that it was thought expedient by thoſe, whoſe Influence cauſed them to be tranſported: And whatever might be the Sentiments of Particulars, it is certain that the Approbation of the Kingdom in general gave a Sanction to the Meaſure.

No Troops were ever animated with more diſtinguiſhed Ardour. Commanders among the firſt Rank of Nobility, Volunteers of Faſhion and Fortune, although nurſed in the downy Lap of Eaſe, forſook at once the Pomp of a Court, the Joys of new-wedded Love, with all the Pleaſures of a luxurious Town; and crowded to the *German* Shore to experience Hardſhips, brave Dangers, and ſtand in the Front of Death.

The common Men were worthy of their Leaders. They were picked and culled from the Flower of the *Britiſh* Army. Strength, Spirit, and Comelineſs

were

were their Characteriſticks. The Command of theſe choſen Bands devolved upon your Lordſhip.

HAD the public Choice directed the Appointment, perhaps no one could have been found more likely to diſcharge the important Duty with Honour, Skill, and Fidelity. Deſcended from one of the nobleſt Stocks in the Kingdom, one eminently diſtinguiſhed for Loyalty, and yourſelf honoured with the Confidence of your Sovereign, who could ſuſpect you of Diſaffection? Having been tried in Action, and your Firmneſs extolled, who could doubt your Courage? Of which you are ſaid to bear honourable Marks, where it is a Soldier's Pride to ſhew them—in your Breaſt. From the Proofs you had given of your Abilities here and in a neighbouring Kingdom more eſpecially, who could queſtion your Capacity?

WITH theſe Impreſſions in your Favour, you entered upon a Command of ſuch high Conſequence to your Country, and ſuch diſtinguiſhed Honour to yourſelf. Noble from your Birth, great in your Endowments, every thing great and noble was expected from your Conduct.

TO your Country's Detriment and your own Diſhonour, the Expectations of the Public are diſappointed. We looked for a Commander, and we find a Commentator. We depended on an active Warrior, and we meet with an idle Diſputant: One, who, in the Field of Battle debates upon Orders with all the Phlegm of an Academic, when he ought to execute them with all the Vigour and Intrepidity of an Hero.

SUCH are the Imputations under which you labour at preſent: And Facts notoriouſly public afford Grounds, which more than countenance a Suſpicion of your Miſconduct. In the Catalogue of Worthies, who received the Thanks of their General for their ſignal Bravery in the Day of Battle, we find *your Name* omitted. We obſerve that you are further

ſtigmatized

ſtigmatized by an Inſinuation that *your* Miſbehaviour rendered the Day of Victory leſs *brilliant*.

You, who were diſtinguiſhed in Command, ought to have been firſt diſtinguiſhed by the Thanks of your Superior. Your poſt required the Diſtinction: It was hoped that your Behaviour would command it. Whence then does this galling Neglect ariſe? Why do we find you not only diſregarded, but diſgraced by a tacit Mark of Opprobrium?

Why do we find, that in the Day of Action, the Troops ſaid to have been under your immediate Command, remained in ſhameful Inactivity, and ſtood as tame Spectators of the Slaughter of their Countrymen and Confederates? Why is the *right Wing*, compoſed of Forces fit to withſtand the *Macedonian* Phalanx, or the *Roman* Cuneus, ſtigmatized with Reproach?

You alone, my Lord, can anſwer theſe Interrogatories. Your Country will demand Satisfaction in theſe Particulars. Your Honour, nay, more depends on the Explanation.

These Circumſtances which carry with them their own Evidence, ſeem to declare you culpable: They are hitherto uncontroverted; and powerful Reaſons will be required to juſtify a Conduct ſo ſeemingly diſhonourable and inexcuſable. At preſent we lament the Effects of ſuch unaccountable Backwardneſs; we are eager to judge of the Cauſe.

I am ſorry to obſerve that none offers itſelf to the unbiaſſed Judgment, which can in the leaſt Degree palliate or excuſe a Behaviour which, as viewed at preſent, wears ſuch a ſhameful Aſpect.

We remember indeed, that ſoon after the Command devolved upon you, a diſagreeable Rumour prevailed, that there was not ſuch cordial Agreement between your Superior and you, as the Nature of the Confederate-ſervice required.

EVERY Well-wiſher to the common Cauſe was diſturbed at the Report of ſuch an unhappy Miſunderſtanding. At home we could not help expreſſing our Concern, that the Neceſſity of Affairs ſhould make it requiſite, for a *Britiſh* Commander to receive Orders from a foreign General.

WE could eaſily conceive that the Delicacy of an *Engliſhman* of high Birth and exalted Spirit, might be offended at Circumſtances of Superiority in a foreign Prince, however tender his Highneſs might be in the Exerciſe of his Authority.

WE were willing to attribute the unfortunate Jealouſy, to your laudable Zeal for the Honour of your Sovereign, and the Reputation of your Country, which made you, perhaps, too conſcious of your Importance, and anxious to ſupport the dignity of your Rank and Station.

WE could not forbear applauding the Principle of *national* Pride, though we were apprehenſive that it might prevent that familiar Intercourſe and Freedom of Conſultation which ought to ſubſiſt among general Officers, and which not only gives birth to many great Deſigns, but often inſures their Succeſs in the Execution.

WE could not ſuſpect, however, that a Man of Faſhion, Honour, and Underſtanding, would ſuffer this noble Principle to degenerate into Envy and Malice; or that he could be ſo loſt to all Senſe of true Glory and national Welfare, as to ſacrifice the common Intereſt to private Pique and Reſentment.

WE were ſenſible that no Man better knew the Duties of Subordination than yourſelf, that no one exacted them from his Inferiors with more ſcrupulous Rigour. We could not ſuppoſe therefore that on any Occaſion you would with-hold your Aſſiſtance, when demanded; much leſs could we imagine that on the Day of Battle,

Battle, you would venture to diſobey poſitive Orders —Orders too, which bid you lead on to Glory.

We might reaſonable conclude, that it would be more neceſſary to reſtrain your Impetuoſity, than prompt your Ardor. Had Orders been ſent forbidding you to charge, or for recalling you from a Purſuit; had your Superior, out of Reſentment, enviouſly tied your Hands to prevent your plucking Wreaths of Laurel, we might indeed have conjectured that you would dare to diſobey: And though a *Roman* Severity would have condemned you for ſuch Diſobedience, yet your Countrymen would have abſolved you.

We hoped that Glory was the ſole ruling Principle, which engaged you to quit a ſafe and honourable Station at home, for the Toils and Dangers of a diſtant War. You knew the Hardſhips and Perils to which you muſt be expoſed, before you undertook the Charge: On the other hand, you might be ſenſible of the Luſtre which your Character would receive from your ſhining Services, and be aſſured of the diſtinguiſhed Acknowledgements which your grateful Countrymen would pay to your high Deſerts.

These were inſpiring Motives; but theſe were not all. — Loyalty to an aged Sovereign, who in the Vale of Life has the Mortification to ſee his native Dominions ravaged by a mercileſs Enemy, with more than *Gothick* devaſtation, might have animated you in Defence of Territores ſo dear to their Maſter, and at preſent of ſuch Conſideration to this Kingdom, not only as connected with us by Alliance, but as ſuffering on our Account and for our Sakes.

Not the Honour alone, but the Intereſt of your Country was concerned in repelling theſe barbarous Invaders. Whatever Men of ſanguine Expectations may conclude, the Fate of *Hanover* muſt in a great Degree influence our own. If the Enemy gains Footing in his Majeſty's *German* Dominions, can we, with any Pretence of Faith and Juſtice, abandon them who

have bled in our Quarrel? Can we hope for an honourable and laſting Peace, unleſs we have Power to drive the *French* from the *Hanoverian* Borders?

But not to inſiſt on the more diſtant Conſequences of Victory, the immediate Advantages reſulting from it were powerful Motives to purſue it. When we ſubdue the Force of our Enemy, we, in ſome meaſure, damp their Courage, and diſpirit them in their future Operations. Beſides Victory, of itſelf, has Charms for an heroic Commander. The military Reputation of your Country was at Stake, and Reputation is Strength.

It has too long been a Reproach to *Great Britain*, that her Generals were unworthy to lead the Men they commanded. The Strength and Bravery of our Soldiers has been highly extolled, but the Skill and Proweſs of our Officers has been held in ſlight Eſtimation.

Our Enemies, on the contrary, have been remarked for the Conduct and Intrepidity of their Commanders, but their Men have always been ſtigmatized as weak and puſillanimous: Furious at the firſt Onſet, but ſuddenly diſheartened by a Repulſe.

The *Britiſh* Commanders, it is true, have, by their gallant Behaviour in the late Action, effaced this Impreſſion to their Diſadvantage. The ſeveral noble Names which ſtand diſtinguiſhed in the Liſt of thoſe who received the Thanks of their General, are ſo many ſhining Teſtimonies, that the Officers of *Great Britain* are not ignorant of Diſcipline, or regardleſs of Glory.

But though this Stigma is removed, it is not wiped off by *you*, my Lord. It was for *you* to clear the *Staff* from the Stains of Reproach, that it might no longer be ſaid, that *Engliſh* Soldiers only wanted *French* Officers, to be a Match for the combined Forces of *Europe*. In ſhort, you had every thing

great

great and glorious in Proſpect: You had nothing to loſe — but your *Honour:* For a Soldier's *Life* cannot be properly called his own.

You could not be ignorant of the Duties of the high Poſt you ſuſtained, nor of the Price you was to pay for your Pre-eminence. Raiſed above others in military Rank, it was expected that you would excel them in military Virtue. Placed at the Head of ſome of the choiceſt among the *Britiſh* Forces, it was thought that you would conduct them with Skill and Intrepidity.

A Commander when he receives his Commiſſion, devotes his Life to his Country. He undertakes to be valiant; and in conſideration of that Engagement, he holds an eminent Rank in Society, and is honourably ſupported at the public Expence.

Why do Thouſands obey the Nod of one Man? but becauſe his Conduct is to guide, his Example to animate them, in the Purſuit of Glory. In the Day of Enterprize he is to repay his Countrymen the Obligations which he owes them, for the Hours of honourable Eaſe which, at their Coſt, he enjoyed in Time of Peace.

You, my Lord, have too much Reflection to have ſuffered theſe Conſiderations to eſcape your Notice. You muſt know what was expected from you: You muſt be ſenſible what you owed to your own Character, and what was due to your Country.

How comes it then that the buſy Voice of Fame makes bold with your Reputation, and proclaims your Behaviour on the Day of Battle to have been ſuch as is totally inconſiſtent with every Motive which can influence a wiſe Man, or determine a brave Commander?

Public Rumour begets public Prejudices. It is fit that you ſhould be acquainted with the Reports that are propagated relating to your Conduct. It is

Friendſhip

Friendſhip to repeat them. Knowing them, you may, and I wiſh that you may be able to remove them. Thus then the Tongue of public report tells the black Tale againſt you:

It is ſaid, that on the *firſt of Auguſt*, when the Confederate Army was drawn up againſt the Forces of *France*, and her Allies, when the immediate Security of his Majeſty's *German* Dominions, when the Honour and Intereſt of your King and Country, together with your own Reputation, depended on the Deciſion of the Field — On that ſignal Day, when the Action grew warm, and became worthy of your Interpoſition, it is ſaid that his Highneſs Prince *Ferdinand*, the Commander in Chief, diſpatched one of his Aids de Camp to you, with Orders for you immediately to attack a particular Body of the Enemy's Troops.

Instead of an inſtant Compliance with theſe Orders, it is reported that you heſitated, and at length intimated, that there muſt be ſome Miſtake in the Delivery or the Injunction of thoſe Orders. On the Aid de Camp's perſiſting to repeat them, it is ſaid (which I own, is ſcarce credible) that your Confuſion carried you ſo far, that you inconſiderately aſked the Aid de Camp, Whether the Orders he brought were in Writing.

Upon his anſwering, with ſome Surprize, in the Negative, you are farther reported to have added, "that you would ſpeak to the Prince yourſelf." Before you could find an Opportunity of addreſſing yourſelf to his Highneſs however, the Occaſion for which your Service was required, is ſaid to be irretrievably loſt: a Conſequence which might reaſonably hape been expected from ſuch Delay.

A Consequence nevertheleſs extremely fatal, and which renders your ſuppoſed Failure more grievous and unpardonable, if it is true, which many affirm, that the greateſt Part of a whole Regiment of bold and gallant *Britons* were cut to pieces for want of being

being ſupported by the Attack which you were ordered to make.

HIGHLY culpable as, from ſuch Behaviour, you are ſuppoſed to have been, a further Opportunity yet offered, as it is ſaid, which, had you embraced it with Vigour, would in ſome Degree have reſtored your Credit, and made ſome Reparation for the calamitous Effects occaſioned by your former unaccountable Failure.

WHEN the Conduct and Valour of the Confederate Army, though not ſeconded by your Endeavours, had repulſed the Enemy and routed their Forces, his Highneſs, we are told, again ſent to you by another of his Aids de Camp, and ordered you to purſue a flying party of the Enemy.

To theſe Orders likewiſe you are ſuppoſed to have refuſed Obedience. The Reaſons affirmed to have been given by you in Juſtification of your Refuſal, no leſs diſgrace your Capacity, than the Refuſal itſelf ſeems to diſhonour your Courage, or your Integrity.

YOU are ſaid to have anſwered the Aid de Camp who brought you Orders for the Purſuit, " that you " was a Stranger to the Roads, and unacquainted " with the Paſſes." Had this weak Anſwer contained the leaſt Apology for your Diſobedience, yet the ſuppoſed Reply of the Aid de Camp ſtripped you even of the Shaddow of an Excuſe. It is aſſerted, that he offered, " To ſhew you the way himſelf and conduct " you with Safety."

THUS driven to Extremity, and left without the ſlighteſt Pretence for diſobeying the Orders you had received, is it to be believed that you ſtill demurred, and puſhed your Expoſtulations to the Verge of Mutiny? The Anſwer which public Rumour has put into your Mouth, is indeed incredible. It is juſt that you ſhould know it. It is affirmed that, perſiſting in your Diſobedience, after long Heſitation, you declared

clared—" that you did not think it adviſeable to ha-
" zard his Majeſty's Troops."

SUCH is the ſhocking and diſmal Light in which your Conduct is repreſented. The Colouring is truly hideous: at preſent however we only ſee the dark Side of the Picture. It remains for you to exhibit the bright one in your own Vindication.

IT is certainly very difficult for Men in public Stations, be their Conduct ever ſo cautions and circumſpect, to avoid creating Enemies. Enmity and Malice will aggravate venial Omiſſions into capital Failings. We ought not therefore to conclude you guilty of ſuch glaring Abſurdity and unpardonable Delinquency, till you have been heard in your Defence. You may have given, or have other, and it is to be hoped *better*, Reaſons to give, for refuſing to execute the Orders of your Superior.

THE Apology which your Friends make for you, I ſhall conſider as I proceed.

IF however it ſhould be found that you have wilfully diſobeyed the Orders you received; if you ſhould have no valid Plea to offer in Juſtification of ſuch Diſobedience; if you ſhould attempt to avail yourſelf of ſuch ſorry Pretences as you are ſuppoſed to have urged in Excuſe of your Non-compliance, I tremble for your Fate.

THINK on the Demands of Juſtice which will be proſecuted againſt you by your injured, diſhonoured, and enraged Country. Reflect on the ſevere Doom of a late unfortunate Admiral, who atoned for his *Negligence* with his Life—A Puniſhment, in your own Opinion, not too rigorous for an Offence by which the Public received Prejudice.

THINK likewiſe how far the Meaſure of his Delinquency is exceeded by your own. He drew up his Force, and actually engaged the Enemy. It appeared however that he did not engage with ſufficient

Vigour

Vigour and Forwardneſs. He endeavoured to prove that a nearer Approximation was impracticable. His Plea was found inſufficient: He was doomed to die. But the Sentence which adjudged him to Death, was accompanied by a Recommendation of the Delinquent to Mercy, as one who erred from Defect of *Judgment*. Notwithſtanding this, notwithſtanding the importunate Petitions of noble Relations, notwithſtanding the preſſing Solicitations of powerful Friends, yet —— he obtained no Reprieve.

If then you ſhould be found guilty of the Charge imputed to you, what Title can you pretend to Clemency? You cannot plead *Error of Judgment* in Excuſe of your Delinquency. It was not a time to exerciſe your Judgment, but to teſtify your Obedience.

Before the Battle begins, or at a Council of War, an inferior Officer may expoſtulate with his Superior; may offer his Advice, or urge his Remonſtrances, concerning the intended Plan of Operations. But in the Hour of Action it is his Duty to obey Orders, without Remonſtrance or Expoſtulation. The Moment of Succeſs is loſt in Diſpute, which generally ends in Shame and Defeat. The chief Commander is reſponſible for the Propriety of his Orders; the inferior Officers are only accountable for their Obedience.

But you are ſuppoſed to have conceived ſome Miſtake in the Orders. Were *they* then wanting in Perſpicuity, or was *you* deficient in Apprehenſion? They who are acquainted with *your* Talents, will not ſuſpect the latter: The World, which bears Witneſs to his *Highneſs*'s Capacity, will not believe the former.

I will not ſuppoſe that, to cover a wilful Diſobedience, you taxed the Orders with Obſcurity or Ambiguity, which where nevertheleſs clear to your Conception. That would be ſuch an aggravating Cir-

cumſtance, as would not only render the Ears of Mercy deaf to your Supplications, but ſteel the Heart of Humanity againſt your Sufferings.

To place your Conduct in every candid Light it ſeems to admit of; let us grant that you really thought the Commander in Chief to have been miſtaken in his Orders, and that it was inexpedient and unadviſeable to carry them into Execution: yet remember that they were Orders for an *Attack*. You did not approve of the Mode preſcribed, it was nevertheleſs your Duty to purſue the Subſtance of his Directions.

If you was under ſtrong Conviction, that the Plan of Operation, injoined by the Orders, was injudicious and ineffectual, you had certainly better have diſobeyed them by altering the Scheme, and *leading your Men to Action*, in a manner more comformable to your own Judgment. You would have incurred leſs Danger, and ſuſtained leſs Diſhonour, by an Attack inconſiſtent with your Orders, than by an inglorious Inactivity.

There is a Generoſity in *Britons* which diſpoſes them to abſolve the Brave and Active, though their Efforts may be improperly directed and unſucceſsfully exerted. He who fights contrary to Orders, appears in a fairer Light, than he who attempts to apologize for Inactivity, by arraigning his Directions.

The Man who tranſgreſſes in the former Inſtance, may, and ought to be, liable to Cenſure, but will never be expoſed to Scandal. He will be applauded for his Intentions, and admired for his Valour, though he may be condemned for his indiſcretion.

He, on the contrary, who intrenches himſelf within the ſtrict Punctilios of Diſcipline, who ſcans Syllables, weighs Words, and debates on Phraſes, may protect his Perſon from Puniſhment, but will never ſhelter his Character from Scorn.

If you received Orders to make an *Attack*, that *Word* at leaſt muſt have been explicit. How then could you remain in Inactivity? How could you ſpend the irrecoverable Moments in commenting on your Orders, and waiting for an Explanation from your Superior? Might you not be aſſured that the Occaſion for your Service would be loſt, before you could be ſatisfied in what Manner to exert it? Could you not conceive, that, if inferior Officers were permitted to expoſtulate with the Commander in Chief, and to remonſtrate againſt the Obſcurity or Impropriety of their Directions, Aids de Camp would have little elſe to do than to gallop with Scruples from the former, and return with Explanations from the latter; by which Means inferior Officers would never want Pretences for delaying the Execution of their Orders, till the Hour of Action was paſt?

How could theſe Conſiderations eſcape your Sagacity? But above all, how could you ſtand an unmoved Spectator of the Carnage before your Eyes? How could you ſee your Countrymen and Fellow-Soldiers, whom you was ordered to ſupport, ſlaughtered within your View, and yet withhold your Aſſiſtance?

This was adding Inhumanity to Diſobedience. If you have Feeling, mourn the Loſs of thoſe gallant Fellows, who will hereafter riſe up in Judgment againſt you. Their Blood will fix indelible Stains on your Conſcience, never to be effaced.

Not only the Lives of thoſe immediately loſt for Want of your Support, but of thoſe who may hereafter fall in future Actions, which might have been prevented by having made this more *complete* and deciſive, will be placed to your Account, as Victims to your Diſobedience.

He who temporiſes, and neglects an Opportunity of ſerving his Country, is guilty of all the Blood ſhed afterwards in its Defence. Why was public Rage ſo violent againſt the late unhappy Admiral? Why is his

Memory ſtill odious to many zealous Patriots? But becauſe it was, and is ſtill apprehended, that, had he exerted himſelf with becoming Vigour, our Enemy had not only loſt preſent Advantages, but had been diſabled from undertaking future Enterprizes. Had he done his Duty, it is thought that the War had ere now been concluded in our Favour.

THOUGH he paid his Life for the Omiſſion, yet public Vengeance was not ſatisfied. Inhumanity was ſuperadded to Juſtice. His very Urn was mangled. Epitaphs were compoſed, in which his Memory was blackened with ſuch a Cloud of public and private Vices, as was ſufficient to darken even Hell itſelf. Yet all this ſanguine Reſentment purſued a Man, who, *from the Declaration of his Judges*, was only guilty of an *Error in Judgment*.

THE Reflection ſhould alarm you. If guilty, you ſeem to have been guilty of a Failure of the *Will*. You was directed: You diſobeyed. Your Judgment was not concerned. You had no Right to uſe it. Had it been your Place to have iſſued Orders, you might have exerciſed it: As it was your Duty to receive them, there was no room for its Interpoſition.

IT may be ſaid, that as you muſt nevertheleſs uſe your Judgment in the *Conſtruction* of your Orders; as it was your Buſineſs to underſtand, tho' not diſpute them, your Heſitation and Inactivity were therefore excuſable. Was this Pretence allowed, inferior Officers might always find Means to delay their Duty, by affecting not to comprehend the Senſe of their Orders. But if they ſhew a Diſpoſition to be ſerviceable, if they are active and brave, the Errors of their *Apprehenſion* will be pardoned.

ADMITTING however that your Orders were worded ambiguouſly; yet the Word *Attack* made the *Subſtance* of them clear. Had you directed an Attack to a wrong Place, or in a wrong Manner, the Plea of *Miſapprehenſion* might have availed you; at preſent it is of

no

no Weight: For it is no where pretended that you received Orders—*to ſtand ſtill.*

In ſhort, there are but theſe two Alternatives in the Caſe: 1. Either you underſtood your Orders, but thought them improper to be put in Execution. Or, *2dly*, you did not comprehend them, and therefore left them unexecuted.

In the firſt Inſtance, you are inexcuſable. It was not your Buſineſs to judge of their Propriety, for which your Superior alone was accountable, but inſtantly to obey their Directions. In the ſecond, you are equally unpardonable. If your Orders were ambiguous, it was nevertheleſs your Duty to have been *active.* They were clear as to that Point. Admitting however that they were not, ſuppoſing them totally ambiguous, in that Caſe, you ſhould have purſued the moſt natural Conſtruction which your own Conjecture and Sagacity could form: You ſhould have *acted* according to the beſt Dictates of your own Judgment,

Your Judgment muſt have ſuggeſted, that it was neither for the Honour or Intereſt of your Country, or for your own Safety and Glory, to remain inactive in the Hour of Battle, and ſtand an unmoved Spectator of the Slaughter before you.—Your Judgment muſt have told you, that it would have been ſafer to have acted wrong, than not to have acted at all. Your Judgment would have informed you, that by waiting for an Explanation of your Orders, you expoſed yourſelf to Diſhonour, and the Service of the Day to irreparable Injury. Your Judgment would have inſtructed you, that, if inferior Officers might plead the Impropriety or Ambiguity of their Orders in Delay of their Execution, it would be impoſſible for a Commander in Chief to enforce the Duties of Subordination; and in vain for him to adjuſt a Plan of Operations.

Let us ſuppoſe however, that you had received *no* Orders

Orders to engage. Yet how could you ſtand inactive when you ſaw your Countrymen fall before you? Would not your Spirit lead you to revenge the Slain? Would not your Humanity excite you to ſupport the Survivors?

Could you imagine that you was placed at the Head of ſuch choice and gallant Forces, only to make a Shew in the Day of Battle? Could you conclude that you was diſtinguiſhed by ſuch an honourable Command, only to lord it over Subalterns, and enrich yourſelf by the vaſt profits of a Campaign? You knew your Duty better: And yet you were inactive. That Fact is not diſputed. The Cauſe we are yet to learn.

If it was poſſible, from the foregoing Circumſtances, to acquit you of Diſobedience to the firſt Orders you received, yet how ſhall we abſolve you of diſobeying the ſecond. They were poſitive in their Nature, and explicit in their Meaning.

You was directed to purſue. Your declaring yourſelf, or being a Stranger to the Roads, was no Excuſe for your Refuſal. It was your Duty to have urged the Purſuit through ſuch Paſſes as appeared to *you* ſafeſt and neareſt. If you *ought* to have been acquainted with them, your Ignorance is a Reproach to you. If it was not not reaſonable to ſuppoſe you acquainted with them, the Commander in Chief would have been anſwerable for any Miſcarriage attending your Deviation; the Cenſure would have fallen upon *him*, for appointing you to a Service, which you might be preſumed unfit to execute.

At all Events your Compliance was requiſite and indiſpenſable. We have read and heard of Commanders who have thought themſelves bound to lead their Men to inevitable Deſtruction, where the Orders of their Chief have been poſitive. I will not refer you, for Inſtances to the *Grecian* or *Roman* Page. I will appeal to your own Knowledge and Experience, and to the Hiſtory of your own Country.

BUT what ſhall we ſay, when we find you diſarmed of the only Pretence under which you ſheltered your Diſobedience? What ſhall we ſay when the Aid de Camp offered to conduct you with ſafety to the Purſuit, and you ſtill perſiſted in your Refuſal to move?

WILL it be believed, that you ventured to oppoſe the Judgment of your Chief, and declare that you did not think it adviſeable to hazard your Troops? Were they not ſent to encounter Hazards, and face Death? Was not the Commander in Chief the proper Judge when and where it was neceſſary for them to incur the Riſk?

HAD you forgot the Sarcaſm which was thrown on a certain General at *Dettingen*, who was ludicrioufly ſtiled the *King's Confectioner*, from his declared Caution in *preſerving his Majeſty's Troops?* Had you forgot what you owed to the Honour of your Country, your own Reputation, and laſtly——to your own Security?

REPORT however may have done you Injuſtice. You may not have been ſo culpable as Fame pronounces you. Sure you *cannot* have been ſo abſurd. But how ſhall we clear your Conduct from Imputations founded on Evidence which cannot lie? Evidence which contains a tacit Impeachment of your Behaviour, and which proves at leaſt that you have deſerved a Cenſure grievous in the higheſt Degree to a Soldier's Honour: I mean Prince *Ferdinand's* Orders. That I may not be thought to ſtrain the Senſe of them in the Courſe of my Comment, I will tranſcribe them, as they are printed. They are as follows:

Prince FERDINAND's Orders.

Head-quarters at Suderhermen, *Auguſt* 2, 1759.

"THE Army to be under Arms at Six o'Clock "this Afternoon, to fire a *Feu de Joye*. The "Brigades of heavy Artillery are to take their re- "ſpective Poſts on the Wings, and in the Front: "The three Brigades of light Artillery are to join the

"heavy

" heavy, *viz.* Captain *Drummond*'s Brigade with Ma-
" jor *Haſſe*'s upon its Right; *Bukeburg*'s Brigade on
" the Left of the Center-Brigade of heavy Artillery;
" Captain *Foy*'s Brigade on the Right of Colonel
" *Hutte*'s. When the Order is given for firing, it
" will be continued three Rounds, beginning upon the
" Right; firſt the Artillery, and then the Army.
" The Order of Firing as follows; 1. The Regiment
" of *Saxe Gotha*, a Volley: 2. Captain *Philips*'s Brigade:
" 3. Major *Haſſe*'s: 4. Captain *Drummond*'s Brigade:
" 5. The heavy and light Artillery of the center Bri-
" gade: 6. Captain *Foy*'s Brigade: 7. Lieutenant
" Colonel *Hutte*'s Brigade: 8. *Bukeburg*'s Regiment
" and Grenadiers a Volley: Then the firſt Line from
" Right to Left, followed by the ſecond from Left to
" Right; the Cannon taken from the Enemy to be
" placed with the center Brigade of heavy Artillery,
" and to fire with it.

" His Serene Highneſs orders his greateſt Thanks
" to be given the whole Army for their Bravery and
" good Behaviour Yeſterday, particularly to the *Bri-*
" *tiſh Infantry*, and the two Battalions of *Hanoverian*
" Guards; to all the *Cavalry* of the *left Wing*, and
" to General *Wangenheim*'s Corps, particularly the
" Regiment of *Holſtein*, the *Heſſian* Cavalry, the
" *Hanoverian* Regiment du Corps, and *Hamerſtin*'s;
" the ſame to all the Brigades of heavy Artillery.
" His Serene Highneſs declares publickly, that next
" to God he attributes the Glory of the Day, to the
" Intrepidity and extraordinary good Behaviour of
" theſe Troops, which he aſſures them he ſhall retain
" the ſtrongeſt Senſe of as long as he lives; and if
" ever upon any Occaſion he ſhall be able to ſerve
" theſe brave Troops, or any one of them in particu-
" lar, it will give him the utmoſt Pleaſure.

" His Serene Highneſs orders his particular Thanks
" to be likewiſe given to General *Sporcken*, the Duke
" of *Holſtein*, Lieutenant Generals *Imhoff* and *Urff*.

" His

" His Serene Highneſs is extremely obliged to " the Count *de Bukeburg* for all his Care and Trouble " in the Management of the Artillery, which was " ſerved with great Effect; likewiſe to the com- " manding Officers of the ſeveral Brigades of Artil- " lery, *viz.* Colonel *Brown*, Lieutenant Colonel " *Hutte*, Major *Haſſe*, and the three *Engliſh* Captains, " *Phillips*, *Drummond*, and *Foy*.

" His Serene Highneſs thinks himſelf infinitely " obliged to Major Generals *Waldegrave* and *Kingſley*, " for their great Courage and good Order, in which " they conducted their Brigades.

" His Serene Highneſs farther orders it to be de- " clared to Lieutenant General *the Marquis of* " Granby, that he is *perſuaded*, that if he had had " the good Fortune to have had him at the Head of " the Cavalry of the right Wing, his Preſence " would have greatly contributed to make the De- " ciſion of that Day more complete and more " brilliant.

" In ſhort, his Serene Highneſs orders that thoſe " of his Suit, whoſe Behaviour he moſt admired, be " named, as the Duke of *Richmond*, Colonel *Fitzroy*, " Captain *Ligonier*, Colonel *Watſon*, Captain *Wilſon* " Aid de Camp to Major-General *Waldegrave*, Adju- " tant Generals *Erſtoff*, *Bulow*, *Derendolle*, the Count " *Tobe*, and *Mallerti*; his Serene Highneſs having " much Reaſon to be ſatisfied with their Conduct.

" And his Serene Highneſs deſires and orders the " Generals of the Army, that upon all Occaſions, " *when Orders are brought to them by his Aids de* " *Camp*, that they be *obeyed punctually*, and *without* " *Delay*."

In theſe Orders there are many Paſſages which ta- citly impeach your Honour and condemn your Con- duct. Not to mention that your Name is omitted among the Number of your Fellow-ſoldiers who were deemed worthy to receive the public Thanks of their

Chief, you ſtand further diſgraced by an open Declaration, that your Place might have been better filled by an inferior Commander.

His Highneſs, addreſſing himſelf to the Marquis of *Granby*, expreſſes his Perſuaſion, that, if he had had HIM at the Head of the RIGHT Wing, HIS Preſence would have greatly contributed to make the Deciſion of that Day *more complete and more brilliant*.

Who then commanded on the *right Wing?* You, my Lord, know who was the Commander. You muſt know the Service for which he was deſtined. If he performed his Duty, why this Inſinuation to his Diſhonour? If he did not, you yourſelf muſt condemn him.

We muſt either accuſe the Commander in Chief of public Cruelty and Injuſtice, of which he cannot be ſuſpected; or, we muſt conclude, that the Commander in the *right Wing* has been faulty.

If it ſhould appear that you were honoured with that Command, it is evident that, in the Opinion of your Superior, you are culpable of a Failure in Duty: The Aggravation or Extenuation of your Delinquency, will depend on the Merits of your Defence.

I would not, as I have already declared, anticipate public Judgement, before you are legally convicted of public Offence. I will not therefore preſume to declare either *wilful Negligence*, *Cowardice*, or *Diſaffection*, to have been the Motives of your Failure.

But as every one has a Right, nay, as it is every one's Duty to throw all the Light he is able to caſt on Circumſtances of public Delinquency, you will pardon me the Severity of concluding, that from the Conſtruction of Prince *Ferdinand*'s Orders, the Commander of the *right Wing* has been guilty of a more than common Failure of Duty—he has been guilty of Diſobedience.

Under

UNDER which of the three capital Heads above enumerated this Diſobedience will fall; or whether it is of a Nature not to be ranked under any of them, a *legal* Deciſion muſt determine. In the mean time it remains to ſhew that the Concluſion of thoſe Orders contains the ſtrongeſt Implication, that ſuch Commander has been diſobedient. They cloſe with the following Deſire and Injunction.

"HIS Serene Highneſs deſires and orders the *Ge-*
"*nerals* of the Army, that upon all Occaſions, when
"*Orders are brought to them by his Aids de Camp*, that
"they be *obeyed* punctually, and *without Delay.*"

Orders iſſued for public Thanks to a victorious Army, would not have ended with this earneſt Requeſt and Injunction, had there not been ſome Inſtance of Miſbehaviour to juſtify a Concluſion, which ſo little correſponds with a gratulatory Addreſs.

THIS as it were objurgatory Clauſe, tacked to Orders of Gratulation, renders the Piece of a motley Complexion. It is an unwelcome Counterbalance to the Eulogiums paſſed on thoſe who diſtinguiſhed themſelves to Advantage. This had not appeared, if ſome glaring Miſconduct had not called for ſuch a tacit Reproof.

IN ſhort, this Concluſion contains the ſtrongeſt Implication, that *ſome General* DISOBEYED Orders which were brought to him by the *Aids de Camp.* Who this General is, we are left to conjecture. But who can he be, but the General who commanded in the *right* Wing?

Who elſe, of Importance, is omitted in the Orders of Gratulation? Who elſe is branded as unfit for the Poſt he ſuſtained, in which, as his Highneſs declares himſelf perſuaded, the Preſence of an Inferior in Command would have greatly contributed to make the Deciſion of the Day more *complete and more brilliant.*

If you, my Lord, was the Commander of the *right* Wing, we find that, in the moſt powerful Terms of implication, you are accuſed of *Diſobedience* by your Commander in Chief: An Accuſation preferred againſt you with the moſt public and mortifying Circumſtances! An Accuſation of you, placed in contraſt to the Gratulation beſtowed on your Fellow-ſoldiers!

Is it to be ſuppoſed, that his Highneſs would raſhly mark a Commander of your Conſequence, an *Engliſhman* of your Rank and Family, with ſuch a Stain of public Ignominy, before he had thoroughly inquired into the Merits of your Conduct, and was fully ſatisfied that you deſerved the Stigma?

Had it appeared that it was impracticable for you to obey the Orders you received, you had not been ſtigmatized with this Opprobrium. In that Caſe it would have been ungenerous and unjuſt. We muſt conclude therefore, that you appeared to have been unwilling to obey them: And weighty Reaſons will be expected to juſtify the Oppoſition of your own Will, againſt the Orders of your Chief.

They who pretend to be acquainted with your Character, ſeem confident that you will be able to vindicate your Fame from the injurious Imputations which diſhonour it. In the mean time your Friends, if they deſerve that Appellation, have prepared an Apology, which, without contributing to *your* Juſtification, wantonly caſts a Reproach on the Commander in Chief.

That Prince *Ferdinand*, however great, is a Man, and as ſuch liable to the Paſſions of human Nature, we need not be told. That it is *poſſible* for him to be moved by Pique and Animoſity, we cannot doubt. That it is *poſſible* he might iſſue miſtaken, nay, even contradictory Orders, we can readily believe.

But becauſe it is poſſible that he might be ſuſceptible of ſuch weak Impreſſions, it is inſinuated that he acted

acted under their Influence. Becauſe it is poſſible that he might be guilty of Contradictions, it is inſinuated that he was: And that it is not the firſt Time he has embarraſſed his Friends by the Inconſiſtency of his Orders. Theſe Inſinuations too, come from an unknown Apologiſt of yours, who ſets out with warning us to be cautious how we *ſlander* the GREAT.

HOWEVER, not to comment on the Abſurdity and Impropriety of this Gentleman's manner of apologizing, I will conſider the Matter of his Apology. I will examine the *Suppoſitions* he makes in your Favour: And, even admitting thoſe Suppoſitions as Facts, they will appear to be of no Weight in your Juſtification. Firſt, however, I will conſider them as they affect the Prince.

I AM not one of thoſe Enthuſiaſts who blindly pay Adoration to Heroes; yet I know how to ſhew due Reſpect to military Merit. I could wiſh there was no Occaſion for Warriors. Where they are neceſſary, and diſcharge their Duty glorioufly, they deſerve the Applauſe of Mankind. If Envy or Falſehood detract from their Worth, it is Generoſity to become their Advocates. On this Principle I ſhall take Leave to obviate theſe Inſinuations which are thrown out to the Prejudice of his Highneſs.

"SUPPOSE," ſays this unknown Apologiſt, "it "ſhould be found that *different* Orders were ſent "at the ſame time, will any Man," he aſks, "ſay "they could both be executed?"

To this Suppoſition, I anſwer, that it is next to impoſſible for two Aids de Camp to come at the ſame time, and each in *one Breath*, to deliver different Orders.

WE know that the Tumult of the Field affords no Room for Attention to Ceremony, yet we can hardly preſume that two Aids de Camp would be ſo abſurd and indecent as to addreſs a Commander of high Rank, both ſpeaking at the ſame time. It is reaſonable

able and natural therefore to conclude, that let the Interval be ever ſo ſmall, the Orders of the one were delivered ſubſequent to thoſe of the other.

GRANTING nevertheleſs that it was poſſible for them to have been delivered *eodem puncto*, and to have been different in their Directions, yet this will not ground any Impeachment againſt the Commander in Chief, or imply any Contradiction in him.

HE might have iſſued Orders one Minute, and the next Glance of his Eye might have viewed the Diſpoſition of the Field varied. Let me, for the Sake of Illuſtration only, in my Turn ſuppoſe, that the Chief might think it neceſſary to charge the *left* Wing of the Enemy, and ſhould have diſpatched an Aid de Camp with Orders to an inferior Commander, to begin the Attack in that Part directly.

LET me ſuppoſe again, that the Aid de Camp was no ſooner departed with theſe Orders, than the Chief perceived the Enemy's *left* Wing to give Way, and that they gained Ground in the *Right*—That on ſuch Alteration in the Face of Battle, which often happens very and ſuddenly unexpectedly, he immediately ſent another Aid de Camp to the *ſame* Commander, with Orders for him to carry his Attack to the *Right*.

IT is more than poſſible in this Caſe, that theſe two Aids de Camp, one ſetting out ſo ſoon after the other, might, by the Latter's being better mounted, or taking a nearer Rout than the Former, both reach the Commander to whom they were ſent, at the ſame time, and with theſe different Orders.

WILL any one argue however, that becauſe theſe Orders were different, and, as coming together, contradictory, *quoad* the Commander to whom they were directed, that therefore a Charge of Contradiction and Inconſiſtency is to be imputed to the Chief who iſſued them?

COULD we ſuppoſe that theſe two Orders were diſpatched at *one and the ſame Time*, the Chief might juſtly

juſtly be accuſed of Inconſiſtency: But it does not follow, that becauſe they *arrived* together, they were therefore *ſent* together.

As the Suppoſition of your Apologiſt is no juſt Impeachment of the Prince's Conduct, neither is it any reaſonable Vindication of your Inactivity. I have obſerved that it is next to impoſſible for two different Orders to be delivered in the ſame Breath; but that, let the Interval be ever ſo inconſiderable, one muſt be ſubſequent to the other.

WHICH then was it your Duty to have obeyed? Undoubtedly, the *laſt*. Allowing however that both were delivered in the ſame Moment; what would a Man of Judgment, what would a Man of Honour do in ſuch a Dilemma? Would he coolly expoſtulate in the Heat of Battle? Would he wait for an Explanation of his Orders while he ſaw his Fellow-ſoldiers bleeding, and while the Opportunity of diſtinguiſhing himſelf and ſerving his Country, paſſed by inglorioufly? No. His Senſe and Spirit would ſuggeſt more noble and animated Conduct. He would have compared the different Orders with the preſent Diſpoſition of the Field of Battle, and have followed thoſe, which, in his beſt Judgement, were moſt conducive to his own Glory, and the Service of the Day.

"SUPPOSE, adds your Apologiſt, that the Com-
"mander was ſent with ALL THE HORSE to one
"Attack, and with the BRITISH HORSE to another,
"and while the Orders were explained, the Occa-
"ſion was loſt; will any Man of Candour, ſays he,
"cenſure him?"

YES, certainly; the whole World will condemn him. Believe me, my Lord, he cannot be your Friend who offers this weak Palliation in your Behalf. It rather aggravates than extenuates your Miſconduct.

THIS Apology acknowledges, that *both* Orders were *poſitive*, as to the Injunction for you to *attack*.

You

You could not therefore miſtake the *Subſtance* of your Directions: And had you erred in the *Mode* of Action, however you might have been cenſured, you would not have been diſhonoured.

It was for your Honour, it was your Duty, at all Events to have *attacked*. While you waited to know with what particular Force to make the Attack, you might have been ſure that the Occaſion for your Service would be loſt; and that the World would reproach you as one glad to let the Opportunity ſlip.

In ſuch a Criſis, you ſhould have conſulted your own Reaſon, and, in comparing your Orders, ſhould have adhered to thoſe which, upon a View of the Field, ſeemed moſt correſpondent with preſent Expedience. You ſhould have known, that in the Confuſion of Battle, ſomething muſt be left to Chance, Accident, and the Hazard of Conſtruction. Though you could not make *two* Attacks at a time, you ſhould nevertheleſs have charged, and have directed your Force, where it appeared, to you, to be moſt requiſite.

Any Reſolution on your Side was preferable to Inaction. *That*, you might be ſenſible, would be certain Diſgrace to you, and might have ruined, inſtead of impairing, the Succeſs of the Day. If you had *charged improperly*, the Diſagreement of the different Directions you received, would have been a powerful and uncontrovertible Plea in your Defence. Every Body muſt have acquitted you for not acting in *two* Places at *once*; and have cenſured him who directed an Impoſſibility: But nothing can excuſe your *not charging at all*, when *both your Orders* were ſo poſitive for that Purpoſe.

Your Apologiſt, who tells us, that his Highneſs on a former Occaſion embarraſſed one of his Friends with a like Contrariety of Orders, does not venture to aſſure us that ſuch Embarraſſment rendered *him* totally inactive. He does not ſay, that *he* ſtood quietly and peaceably, with his Hands before him, waiting

ing for an Explanation. We are to preſume therefore that *he* had the Senſe or the Spirit to put *ſome Conſtruction* on his Orders.

HAD you, my Lord, exerted ſuch a Reſolution, your own Reputation might have acquired additional Luſtre, and the Deciſion of the Day been "more "complete and brilliant." You would have ſhewn Spirit, and a Diſpoſition to ſignalize yourſelf, however you might have erred in executing your Intentions.

AT preſent, from Circumſtances hitherto uncontroverted, nay, corroborated by the Apology offered for your Conduct, you ſtand accuſed of *diſobeying Orders*. A Crime eminently capital in a Soldier, but moſt unpardonable when *Inaction* is the Conſequence of *Diſobedience*.

IT is owned, that the Cavalry under your Command were *not* engaged. It is confeſſed that you received Orders to lead them to the Attack. It is acknowledged that you diſobeyed thoſe Orders, and declined the Charge. Wherefore you declined it, I hope you will be able to demonſtrate. I hope you will be able to prove that it was impracticable to execute *either* of your Orders. To tell us that you could not execute *both* at once, is being wanton in your Defence.

IT will require the full Diſplay of your Eloquence, and the utmoſt Exertion of your great Talents and Abilities to juſtify yourſelf before the Tribunal of your Country. If your Delinquency ſhould not fall within the Letter of the Law, yet after all it will demand all your Philoſophy, to quiet the Compunctions of your own Conſcience.

IF you have a juſt Senſe of true Glory, if you have a Dread of Shame, I commiſerate your Condition. Think of the Reproaches which await the Soldier, who ſtands inactive in the Heat of Battle. Remember, my Lord, that it is one thing to be out of the

Reach of Juſtice, another, to ſtand within the Pale of Honour.

Of the Motives of your Diſobedience, various are the Conjectures. There are Men, no doubt, who delight to add the Load of Slander to the Scale of Misfortune; and love to have a Hand in weighing down thoſe who are ſinking. Such perhaps, are they, who now affect to think your Courage problematical; who whiſper Tales of *St. Cas*; and talk of a Backwardneſs in that Expedition, which, if true, gave a fatal Omen of future Reluctance.

But as you yourſelf are the beſt Judge of what paſſed in your Breaſt, it may ſeem cruel to impute your Diſobedience to the moſt ignominious of all Principles. That you declined giving Proofs of heroic Ardour, when Occaſion offered, and the Commands of your Chief directed the Exertion, is certain. Whether Fear tied your Hands or not, your own Conſcience can beſt decide.

As to Diſaffection, there does not appear to be the leaſt colour for ſuch an Imputation. In ſhort, the Suppoſition *leaſt* injurious to your Honour is to conclude that national Pride and private Animoſity againſt your Chief, prompted your Diſobedience; and diſpoſed you rather to ſeek an Opportunity of caſting a Reproach on your Superior, by cavilling at his Orders, than of ſignalizing yourſelf, and promoting the general Cauſe.

But will this excuſe you before the Bar of the Publick? Will this abſolve you in the Courts of Reaſon and Honour? The true national Pride, my Lord, is to act, *on all Occaſions*, for the Glory and Intereſt of our Country.

Supposing, which has not yet been pretended, that his Highneſs had treated you with Indignity, and thereby affronted the Nation: Yet you muſt have been ſenſible that the Hour of Battle was not a time

a time to avenge an Affront offered to the Kingdom, in *your* Perſon. You might be certain, that your ill-timed Reſentment would expoſe your Country to Diſgrace, and *hazard* the Ruin of the Common Cauſe.

A RESENTMENT ſo ill placed, ſavours more of *perſonal* Malice, than of *national* Indignation. It rather ſeems that you was more earneſt to revenge your own ſuppoſed Wrongs, than your Country's. You took the Means to ruin the Welfare, not to aſſert the Dignity of the Nation: And had not ſome powerful Paſſion blinded your Underſtanding, you might have perceived that ſuch a Gratification of Revenge, involved your own Deſtruction.

WHO can that other nameleſs Apologiſt of yours be, who has the Confidence and Abſurdity to inſult the Public with the following Quere?—" If," ſays he, " a juſt Senſe of the Dignity of that Nation, " which L— G—— S——— in ſome Meaſure had " the Honour of repreſenting, has been the Occa- " ſion of his *forbearing* any thing, which, in his Opi- " nion, may not be detrimental to it, is there an " *Engliſhman* who ſhould not *eſpouſe* his Cauſe?"

I AM aſhamed to have tranſcribed this Sentence. —Is there an *Engliſhman* who can eſpouſe the Cauſe of a Commander who remained *inactive* in the Day of Battle, when *ordered* to *attack?* Is there an *Engliſhman* ſo ignorant of the Rules of Diſcipline, ſo unſatisfied of the *Neceſſity of Subordination*, as to be an Advocate for an inferior Officer who ſets HIS *Opinion* againſt the *Commands* of his Superior?

Is there an *Engliſhman* ſo weak as to believe that a juſt Senſe of the Dignity of the Nation could *poſſibly* occaſion his Forbearance? Is there an *Engliſhman* ſo credulous to conclude (againſt the Expreſſions of of the Prince's poſitive Perſuaſion to the contrary) that his Forbearance has *not* been Detrimental? Could

it be otherwiſe than detrimental to *ſtand ſtill*, when ordered to *attack?*

ADMITTING however that it had not been detrimental,—that it was not even likely to be ſo—Yet, was a Commander of his Rank to content himſelf with the Satisfaction of *doing no Harm?* Was he placed at the Head of ſuch gallant Forces for *negative* Purpoſes? Was he not called into the Field for *active* Services? Was he not *ordered* to exert them? Did he not *diſobey?* Is it not doing Harm, to refuſe to execute the Service he was appointed to perform?

SUCH Advocates, my Lord, betray the Weakneſs of the Cauſe they defend. It is to be hoped, however, that you yourſelf will urge more powerful Juſtifications in Excuſe of your *Diſobedience.* You cannot be inſenſible of the fatal Conſequences of which it has been, and may ſtill be, productive.

HIS Highneſs has declared himſelf perſuaded that it rendered the Deciſion of the Day *leſs complete and brilliant.* But the immediate Effects are not all. The Contagion of bad Example may diffuſe its baneful Influence, to the future Prejudice of the Service.

BY the ſame Rule that *you* may, with Impunity, diſobey the Directions of your Chief, the next in Command may refuſe Obedience to yours; till, at length, particular Inſtances of Diſobedience may multiply to a general *Mutiny.*

IT will be in vain for Miniſters to direct Schemes for the Service of the State, or for Commanders in Chief to form Plans of Action, if their Operations are liable to be diſconcerted for want of due Obedience in thoſe who are ordered to carry them into Execution.

I NEED not inform you, my Lord, that among the *Romans* it was Death to *fight* without the General's Orders. How much more capital then muſt it be, to diſobey his Orders *for fighting?*

IT

It will be needleſs likewiſe to remind you of an extraordinary Cuſtom among the ſame people, which *A. Gellius* records; and which directs that they who did not obſerve the Rules of Diſcipline ſhould be let Blood. Which Puniſhment, in the Opinion of an eminent Critic, was intended to denote, That thoſe mean-ſpirited Wretches deſerved to loſe their Blood with Diſgrace and Ignominy, which they dared not ſhed nobly and honourably in the Service of their Country.

All Nations, you well know, have proceeded with the utmoſt Severity againſt thoſe who have infringed the Rules of Diſcipline, by Diſobedience. Our Military Laws pronounce the Offence capital: We have ſeen too many of Diſtinction doomed to ſuffer the ſevere Penalty: It is to be wiſhed that the Number may never increaſe.

It is to be wiſhed, my Lord, that you may be able to juſtify your Conduct upon a judicial Examination. In the mean time, the Public, who have been injured by your Failure, have a Right to expoſtulate with you, and expreſs their Senſe of your Behaviour.

Should you be acquitted by your Judges, your Honour will require you to ſatisfy your Fellow-citizens: The Sentence which ſecures you from public Puniſhment may not exempt you from public Cenſure.

Your Apologiſts neither act with Juſtice nor Diſcretion when they recriminate, and *poſitively* accuſe his Highneſs of Raſhneſs. Says one of them—"As "the Prince *has* been *raſh* in his Behaviour, he may "alſo have been wrong in his Judgment." This is an indecent Accuſation, followed by a malevolent Suppoſition.

It ſhould be remembered, that if it is unjuſt to condemn *you* unheard, it is not leſs ſo to cenſure your Superior. It ſhould be remembered likewiſe, that if this Suppoſition ſhould prove to be a Fact; if it ſhould appear that his Highneſs was wrong in his Judgment, *his* Error will not avail you in your Defence.

Whether

WHETHER his Judgement was right or wrong, it was not your Duty to diſpute it, but to obey his Directions; his Order was a Voucher for your Conduct: To diſobey it, you knew was a Breach of Diſcipline, and a capital Crime.

BUT how does it appear that the Prince has been raſh? What! Becauſe at the Head of the Troops, he fixed a Mark of Reprobation on the Commander of the right Wing? Does this, as your Apologiſt inſinuates, imply any Imputation to the Diſhonour of the *Britiſh* Troops in general? Has he not, in expreſs Terms, generouſly acknowledged, that next to Providence, he owed his Succeſs to the Bravery of the *Britiſh* Forces?

IT is to be preſumed that his Highneſs was, and indeed he declares himſelf to have been, thoroughly perſuaded, of the Miſbehaviour of that Commander. Under this Perſuaſion, it was juſt and politic, to make the Cenſure publickly, as the Offence was public.

THE Good of the Service required the Example. The greater the Rank of the Commander, the more notorious ſhould be the Reprimand; that it may appear in the Face of the whole Army, that no Diſtinction or Nobility, whatever, can excuſe the Soldier who fails in his Duty.

AS ſignal Bravery ſhould be recompenſed by Rewards and public Marks of Approbation, to animate others with a noble Emulation to deſerve ſuch honourable Notice; ſo ought diſtinguiſhed Miſconduct to be branded with public Reproach and Puniſhment, to deter others from becoming the ſhameful and unhappy Objects of ſuch ignominious Severity.

IN an Army, ſuch as his Highneſs commands, the Rigour of Diſcipline ought to be particularly obſerved. They have more than a common State to loſe. They fight *pro Aris & Focis:* And every one ſhould be made ſenſible, that all their Hopes depend on their own good Conduct and Intrepidity.

We have an Evidence in Marſhal *Belleiſle*'s Letter to Marſhal *Contades*, of the ſanguine and inhuman Deſigns of the Enemy. We find that large Contributions were to have been exacted, and that *Hanover* was to have been made a *downright Deſert*.

Such were the barbarous Intentions of a People, who boaſt of being poliſhed! Such were the ſavage Injunctions of a People who call themſelves Chriſtians! A Barbarity too, directed to have been exerciſed againſt an innocent Nation, which, ſtrictly ſpeaking, is no Party in the Quarrel, and has done nothing to provoke ſuch Cruelty.

We may learn from their purpoſed Inhumanity towards that Electorate, what Treatment we are to expect, ſhould they ever gain Footing on the *Engliſh* Coaſt. O! What a Reproach it is to human Nature, that Men in collective Bodies ſhould be guilty of ſhocking Inſtances of Injuſtice and Brutality, for which, were they to act as Individuals, each would condemn the other as an Object of univerſal Abhorrence and Deteſtation, and purſue him as a ſavage Monſter, who ought to ſuffer Death with the utmoſt Severity of Torture?

Can the Number of the Offenders then, change the Nature of the Offence? Is not that which would be a Crime in one Man, a multiplied Crime in a Million? Reaſon anſwers in the Affirmative: And however Caſuiſts may urge the Plea of political Neceſſity, it will always be found eventually, that barbarous Injuſtice is as contrary to political Intereſt, as it is oppoſite to moral Goodneſs.

All unjuſt and ſavage Expedients are but the temporary Shifts of ſhort-ſighted Stateſmen, who want an enlarged Capacity to provide againſt diſtant Events, and Fortitude to perſevere through the Progreſs of an extenſive Syſtem. Men of limited Talents have recourſe to Extremities: Great Minds find Reſources in Moderation.

That

THAT the Electorate has hitherto eſcaped the dreadful Calamities with which a barbarous Enemy propoſed to afflict them, has not been owing to you, my Lord. For any Thing you contributed to avert the diſmal Scene, the Plains of *Minden* might have been covered with the dead Bodies of your victorious Countrymen and Confederates; *Hanover* might have been made the Seat of Ruin and Deſolation: The Fate of *Germany* might have been unhappily decided: And *Britain* compelled to ſubmit to an inglorious Peace.

ALL theſe horrid Conſequences might have attended your unaccountable Miſbehaviour. That they did not, we are beholden to good Fortune, and the Intrepidity of thoſe gallant Forces, who redeemed us from theſe dreadful Apprehenſions of Miſery and Deſtruction at the Price of their Lives.

BUT I forget that you have not been heard in your Defence. Your Country waits for an Explanation: And every Man of Candour and Impartiality wiſhes that your Vindication may prove ſatisfactory.

IN the mean time I cannot forbear expreſſing my Concern that your unfortunate Situation ſhould affect an aged Father and venerable Peer, who has grown old by the Side of his Sovereign, and by a long Life of Loyalty and good Services, has preſerved the Favour of his Royal Maſter, without forfeiting the Eſteem of his Fellow-citizens—A Father, who deſerved a better Fate than to have even a Suſpicion of Diſhonour light on ſo near a Branch of his Family. But though we lament his Feelings, we admire his Fortitude. Moved with the Affection of a tender Parent, he adheres to Juſtice with a *Roman* Rigour; and nobly ſcorns to interpoſe between an offending Son and an injured Country.

F I N I S.

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